



MEDIA RELEASE

For Immediate Release: March 2, 2009

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**Edgewater Casino CelticFest Vancouver 2009
March 11 – 15, 2009**

**6th Annual St. Patrick's Day Parade Route, March 15
Street Closures on March 15**

Kinship! Come Together for a Celebration of Celtic Culture

Information: www.celticfestvancouver.com

Vancouver, BC – Western Canada's biggest Celtic celebration will roll out from **March 11 to 15, 2009** for a sixth great year, bringing everything Celtic to the forefront in downtown Vancouver! The hallmark of the **6th Annual Edgewater Casino CelticFest Vancouver** is its diverse menu of Celtic performance and culture, with hundreds of gifted performing artists from Canada, the US and Ireland appearing in over 60 events – and over two-thirds of those events are offered free of charge.

The festival's most popular free event is sure to be the **6th Annual St. Patrick's Day Parade on Sunday, March 15**. This huge, colourful spectacle kicks off at **11:30 am** at the corner of Georgia and Broughton in downtown Vancouver (note new 2009 route**). It's estimated that more than 300,000 people will turn out to see almost a hundred parade entries. Approximately 2,000 participants will take to the streets, including international award-winning pipe and drum bands, marching Colour Guard, Celtic music and dance groups, the Vancouver police motorcycle drill team and fire brigades, acrobats, stilt walkers, rare, vintage cars, Irish & Scottish youth dance and music groups, multicultural organizations, distinguished local guests and much more. And at 12 Noon, there will be a special treat above the downtown skies, when a Canadian Air Force CP 140 Aurora aircraft performs a **spectacular low-altitude flyby** over the parade route!! The parade's presenting sponsor is the Downtown Vancouver Business Improvement Association.

Arrive early to catch the **FREE** Parade kick-off show at 10 am on the Street Market Stage in the **Celtic Village** (note it's new 2009 location at the Vancouver Art Gallery Plaza, Georgia @ Howe). After the Parade, head back to the Celtic Village and Market where you'll find dozens of other free performances and unique family entertainment, plus beautiful Celtic wares and tasty food (**Saturday March 14 and Sunday March 15 until 5 pm**). Don't miss the free Celtic concerts, face-painting artist, magical storytelling, a medieval fencing demonstration and much more!

Parade Time / Date **Sunday, March 15 - 11:30am** – with pre and post parade entertainment at the Celtic Village (Vancouver Art Gallery Plaza, Georgia and Howe Street) starting at 10am. And all day March 14.

****Parade Route** The parade begins at Georgia Street & Broughton and marches east along Georgia to Howe Street, ending next to the Vancouver Art Gallery Plaza (*note: new route for 2009*)

Parade Entrants Approximately 100 entries and at least 2,000 parade participants

Street Closures & Transit Rerouting

On **Sunday, March 15** the following streets will be closed to vehicle traffic between 8:30 am and 2:00 pm:

8:30 am - 2:00 pm - Alberni St from Cardero to Jervis, Broughton St from Robson to W. Georgia, Nicola St from Robson to W. Georgia.

10:00 am - 2:00 pm - Howe Street from W. Georgia to Nelson

10:00 am - 2:00pm - Parade Route, West Georgia from Broughton to Howe St.

There will also be rerouting of buses on Sunday, March 15. For more information about bus detours, call **TransLink at 604-953-3333** or visit <http://www.translink.bc.ca/>

For more festival and parade information & to purchase event tickets, **visit the festival website** at www.celticfestvancouver.com

Festival Program Guides are available at most 7-Eleven outlets throughout the Lower Mainland and at participating venues.

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